

MAY 2021



NEWSLETTER



Fremont County Farm Service Agency
508 North Broadway Ave
Riverton, WY 82501
PH: 307-856-7524 ext 2
FAX: 855-415-3439

Acting County Executive Director:
Sherri Harvey,
District Director

Farm Loan Manager:
Brian Harrell

Farm Loan Program Technician:
Carol Zogata

Farm Program Technician:
Tracy Givens

County Committee:
Stan Horton
Jim Hellyer
Will O'Neal

Next Committee Meeting:
TBA

Greetings Fremont County Ag Producers !

The Fremont County FSA Office is gearing up for acreage reporting season. Since we are now open to the public **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**, we will be contacting you in the near future, providing you with an appointment date and time to stop by the office. If you cannot make your scheduled appointment, please call us immediately to reschedule.

Remember, if you have any new leases, please bring us a copy. Also, let us know if you have dropped any old leases. We are unable to pay program benefits to you without **CURRENT** leases on file in this office. It is your responsibility to provide us with your leases each year. Also, Fremont County is adopting a new way to report federally managed land, including BLM, Forest Service Allotments and BIA Range Units. These acreages will be reported on a AUM basis beginning in 2021.

Important Reminders for NAP Participants

1. **File a notice of loss!** If you know, or even suspect you have a loss, report it to the office as soon as you notice, but no later than 15 days after you notice. When in doubt, call the office.
2. **Do Not spray, or otherwise destroy the acreage until a final appraisal has been completed, or representative samples have been established according to direction from the loss adjuster hay crops before talking to the office!** Whether or not you have a loss, an appraisal **MUST** be done on any acres reported as hay **BEFORE** you graze them. Not getting an appraisal means those acres will count for 0 production for your APH, which can significantly impact your yield guarantees for the next 10 years. Also, unharvested hay acres that are not appraised will not be paid on if you have a loss.
3. **DO get unharvested hay fields appraised!** Even if you are leaving a hayfield unharvested and ungrazed, an appraisal is still needed. Crops left standing without an appraisal also results in 0 production counted. This will negatively impact your coverage in the same way as grazing your hayfields.

Here's to a healthy, happy and successful Fremont County Summer!!



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **May 31, 2021**– County Office Closed Memorial Day Holiday
- **July 5, 2021**– County Office Closed – Independence Day Holiday Observed
- **July 15, 2021**– Deadline for Acreage Reporting Spring Planted Crops
- Contact FSA to report adverse weather & livestock losses within **30 days** of realizing the loss

Wool Triggers Loan Deficiency Payment in Fremont County

If you raise sheep in Fremont County, you may be eligible for loan deficiency payments (LDPs) from the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA).

[LDPs and marketing assistance loans \(MALs\) are marketing tools that are available during or after shearing but before loss of control of your wool.](#)

MALs help producers meet cash flow needs without selling commodities when market prices are at harvest-time lows. Producers who are eligible for marketing loans, but choose to forgo the loan, are eligible for LDPs if the posted county price falls below the county loan rate.

Producers can purchase a commodity certificate that may be exchanged for the outstanding loan collateral. Daily LDP rates are available online at fsa.usda.gov.

Rules related to payment limitations, actively engaged in farming and cash-rent tenant no longer apply to LDPs.

Persons with disabilities who require special accommodations to apply for program assistance should contact Sherri Harvey, 307-856-7524 extension 2, or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Policy Updates for Acreage Reporting

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) recently made several policy updates for acreage reporting for cover crops, revising intended use, late-filed provisions, grazing allotments as well as updated the definitions of "idle" and "fallow."

Reporting Cover Crops:

Cover crop types can be chosen from the following four categories:

Cereals and other grasses
Legumes
Brassicas and other broadleaves
Mixtures

If the cover crop is harvested for any use other than forage or grazing and is not terminated according to policy guidelines, then that crop will no longer be considered a cover crop and the acreage report must be revised to reflect the actual crop.

Permitted Revision of Intended use After Acreage Reporting Date:

New operators or owners who pick up a farm after the acreage reporting deadline has passed and the crop has already been reported on the farm, have 30 calendar days from the date when the new operator or owner acquired the lease on land, control of the land or ownership and new producer crop share interest in the previously reported crop acreage. Under this policy, appropriate documentation must be provided to the County Committee's satisfaction to determine that a legitimate operator or ownership and producer crop share interest change occurred to permit the revision.

Acreage Reports:

In order to maintain program eligibility and benefits, you must timely file acreage reports. Failure to file an acreage report by the crop acreage reporting deadline may result in ineligibility for future program benefits. FSA will not accept acreage reports provided more than a year after the acreage reporting deadline.

Reporting Grazing Allotments:

FSA offices can now accept acreage reports for grazing allotments. You will use form "FSA-578" to report grazing allotments as animal unit months (AUMs) using the "Reporting Unit" field. Your local FSA office will need the grazing period start and end date and the percent of public land.

Definitions of Terms

FSA defines "idle" as cropland or a balance of cropland within a Common Land Unit (CLU) (field/subfield) which is not planted or considered not planted and does not meet the definition of fallow or skip row.

Fallow is considered unplanted cropland acres which are part of a crop/fallow rotation where cultivated land that is normally planted is purposely kept out of production during a regular growing season.

American Rescue Plan Socially Disadvantaged Farmer Debt Payments

USDA recognizes that socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers have faced systemic discrimination with cumulative effects that have, among other consequences, led to a substantial loss in the number of socially disadvantaged producers, reduced the amount of farmland they control, and contributed to a cycle of debt that was exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic. During the pandemic, socially disadvantaged communities saw a disproportionate amount of COVID-19 infection rates, loss of property, hospitalizations, death, and economic hurt.

To address these systemic challenges, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provides historic debt relief to socially disadvantaged producers including Black/African American, American Indian or Alaskan native, Hispanic or Latino, and Asian American or Pacific Islander.

USDA is now reviewing and working to gather feedback to implement the Act, and more guidance will be forthcoming for socially disadvantaged borrowers with direct or guaranteed farm loans as well as Farm Storage Facility Loans. As information becomes available, it will be provided directly to socially disadvantaged borrowers and stakeholder groups representing socially disadvantaged producers, posted here on farmers.gov, and shared through our social media channels, email newsletters, and the media.

Who qualifies for this debt relief?

Any socially disadvantaged borrower with direct or guaranteed farm loans as well as Farm Storage Facility Loans qualifies. The American Rescue Plan Act uses the 2501 definition of socially disadvantaged, which includes Black/African American, American Indian or Alaskan native, Hispanic or Latino, and Asian American or Pacific Islander. Gender is not a criterion in and of itself, but of course women are included in these categories.

I qualify as socially disadvantaged under the American Rescue Plan definition, but I am not late on my payments. Do I still qualify?

Yes. Any socially disadvantaged borrower with direct or guaranteed farm loans as well as Farm Storage Facility Loans qualifies.

When will qualified borrowers begin to see a loan pay-off or other payment in response to the American Rescue Plan?

USDA is now reviewing and working to gather feedback to implement the Act, and more guidance will be forthcoming for socially disadvantaged borrowers with direct or guaranteed farm loans as well as Farm Storage Facility Loans. For borrowers in arrears, the moratorium established on January 26th to stop all debt collections, foreclosures and evictions for all borrowers, including socially disadvantaged producers, remains in effect.

Producers who have worked with USDA's Farm Service Agency previously may have their ethnicity and race on file. A borrower, including those with guaranteed loans, can contact their local their local USDA Service Center to verify, update or submit a new ethnicity and race designation using the AD-2047. Find your nearest service center at farmers.gov/service-locator.

To learn more about USDA's work to implement the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, visit www.usda.gov/arp.

LOWER WIND RIVER CONSERVATION

DISTRICT

HAS MOVED!

Find Cathy & Kirsten at:

625 East Madison Ave Suite 1

Riverton, WY 82501

Or call 307-463-0636

Disaster Assistance Available for Livestock Losses

The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) provides assistance to you for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather, disease and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law.

For disease losses, FSA county committees can accept veterinarian certifications that livestock deaths were directly related to adverse weather and unpreventable through good animal husbandry and management.

For 2021 livestock losses, you must file a notice within 30 calendar days of when the loss is first apparent. You then must provide the following supporting documentation to your local FSA office no later than 60 calendar days after the end of the calendar year in which the eligible loss condition occurred.

- Proof of death documentation
- Copy of grower's contracts
- Proof of normal mortality documentation

USDA has established normal mortality rates for each type and weight range of eligible livestock, i.e. Adult Beef Cow = 1.5% and Non-Adult Beef Cattle (less than 250 pounds) = 5%. These established percentages reflect losses that are considered expected or typical under "normal" conditions.

In addition to filing a notice of loss, you must also submit an application for payment by March 1, 2022.

For more information, contact the Fremont County USDA Service Center at 307-856-7524 or visit fsa.usda.gov.

ELAP Covers Losses from Additional Cost of Transporting Water to Livestock

If you've incurred additional operating costs for transporting water to livestock due to an eligible drought, assistance may be available to you through the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP).

An eligible drought means that part or all of your county is designated D3 (extreme drought) or higher as indicated by the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#).

Eligible livestock must be adult or non-adult dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo and beefalo, as well as alpacas, deer, elk, emus, equine, goats, llamas, reindeer, or sheep. Additionally, the livestock must have been owned 60 calendar days prior to the beginning of the drought and be physically located in the county designated as a disaster area due to drought. Adequate livestock watering systems or facilities must have existed before the drought occurred and producers are only eligible if they do not normally transport water to the livestock.

Livestock that were or would have been in a feedlot are not eligible for transporting water. ELAP covers the additional cost of transporting water and does not cover the cost of the water itself.

You must file a notice of loss on form CCC-851 the earlier of 30 calendar days of when the loss is apparent to you. Additionally, the deadline to submit an application for payment for 2021 ELAP assistance is Jan. 31, 2022.

You'll have to provide documentation to FSA that shows the method used to transport the water, the number of gallons of water transported and the number of eligible livestock to which water was transported.

FARM and OPERATION CHANGES

FSA needs to keep records updated at all times. If you have had any of the following changes, please report them to our office so we can update our records accordingly. Individual or business names, phone numbers or addresses, shares or membership changes to entities, deeding land into a trust, sold or purchased property, added or dropped leased land.

If you are affected by drought-like conditions please take a few minutes to file a producer report at:

<https://droughtimpacts.unl.edu/ConditionMonitoringObservations.aspx>

This will help the drought monitor people be aware of the severity of conditions and the impact at the producer level.

Ask USDA available to answer questions about FSA programs

Ask USDA is now available as a tool for FSA customers to ask questions about FSA programs and services.

Ask USDA, available at ask.usda.gov is similar to AskFSA, which was decommissioned Sept. 21, but it also provides information for all USDA programs. Ask USDA allows USDA customers to search for and read answers about FSA programs and services in the same location as they read about other USDA programs and services.

Customers are able to submit questions through email, chat, and phone if they need more information. This improved customer service approach further builds on Secretary Sonny Perdue's OneUSDA vision and provides the customer a one-stop shopping experience that covers all of USDA's many programs.

USDA Farm Service Agency
Fremont County Office
508 North Broadway Ave
Riverton, WY 82501

Applying for Farm Storage Facility Loans

The Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program provides low-interest financing to help you build or upgrade storage facilities and to purchase portable (new or used) structures, equipment and storage and handling trucks.

Eligible commodities include corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain, pulse crops (lentils, chickpeas and dry peas), hay, honey, renewable biomass, fruits, nuts and vegetables for cold storage facilities, floriculture, hops, maple sap, rye, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, meat and poultry (unprocessed), eggs, and aquaculture (excluding systems that maintain live animals through uptake and discharge of water). Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns and cold storage facilities for eligible commodities.

Loans up to \$50,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement, loans between \$50,000 and \$100,000 may require additional security, and loans exceeding \$100,000 require additional security.

You do not need to demonstrate the lack of commercial credit availability to apply. The loans are designed to assist a diverse range of farming operations, including small and mid-sized businesses, new farmers, operations supplying local food and farmers markets, non-traditional farm products, and underserved producers.

For more information, contact your Fremont County USDA Service Center at 307-856-7524 or visit fsa.usda.gov/pricesupport.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).